

**California Department of Transportation
Native American Advisory Committee
Quarterly Meeting Minutes
July 13, 2005**

Chairman Joseph Myers called the meeting to order at 9:00am.

Adopt Agenda: Chairman Myers asked if there were any revisions or additions to the agenda. There were no changes and the agenda was adopted.

Approve Minutes: Chairman Myers requested that the NAAC make a motion to approve the minutes for the last meeting April 13, 2005. A motion was made by Garth Sundberg; seconded by Ben Scerato, the motion was passed by a vote of 12Yes, 0 Against.

Roll Call: NAAC Committee members in attendance were Joel Bravo, Helen George alternate for Samuel Elizondo, Joseph Garcia Sr., Gerald Howard alternate for Bruce Klein, Joe Loya, Jerry Paresa alternate for Deron Marquez, Joseph Myers, Richard Myers, Dave Nenna, Benjamin Charley Sr. alternate for Lorenda Sanchez, Ben Scerato, and Garth Sundberg.

Director's Representatives in attendance were Sharon Scherzinger, Office Chief of the Office of Regional and Interagency Planning; and Cynthia Gomez, Branch Chief of the Native American Liaison Branch.

Others in attendance: Jon Otterson, Tuolumne Rancheria; Dave Lingo, Tuolumne Rancheria; Jo Sanford, consultant; Bessie Papailias, Chief, External Equal Opportunity Program, Caltrans; Robert Padilla, Caltrans Civil Rights; Travis Majors, City Net West Technology; Dave Moore, Caltrans District 2; Brian Travis, Caltrans District 1; Blesilda Gebreyesus Caltrans District 4, Arnold San Miguel, Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG); Chris Walters, San Manuel Reservation; Melinda Laumann, Cedarville Rancheria; Tina Biorn, Caltrans Environmental; Kathleen McClafin, Caltrans District 10; Mario Orso, Caltrans District 11; Greg King, Caltrans Environmental; Valarie Smith, Caltrans Native American Liaison; Jila Priebe, Caltrans Native American Liaison.

OLD BUSINESS

Introduction and Welcome of Caltrans Director, Will Kempton: Ms. Scherzinger reported that the Director was planning to attend the meeting, unfortunately, at 7:30 A.M. this morning he was called away to an appropriations meeting regarding the Bay Bridge and would not be able to attend the Committee meeting.

Report on Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG): Arnold San Miguel reported on SCAG's efforts for outreach to the tribal governments in its region. He mentioned that SCAG is in the process of establishing a framework to work with all sixteen tribes and 188 cities in its region. He mentioned that SCAG has been holding several summits to find the best way to partner with tribes in its region. The summits were design to provide information regarding SCAG's roles and responsibilities, as well as gathering input from tribes on establishing a protocol for partnership.

Report on Tribal Forest Protection Act (TFPA): Mr. Jerry Paresa gave an overview of the Tribal Forest Protection Act (TFPA), and provided some background information on the legislation. He stated that many reservations and rancherias have limited access to safety. The 2003 fires destroyed a large amount of the tribal lands. The TFPA would pave the way to help prevent some issues during fire season. Mr. Paresa then introduced Chris Walters who gave a PowerPoint presentation on Transportation and Tribal Collaboration. He mentioned that the 2003 fire Storm affected San Manuel Reservation, five counties, and approximately 3,557 homes were destroyed. Ten lives lost on or near the reservations, mainly on the highways. He mentioned that it is imperative that collaboration on this issue be addressed and enforced so that lives are not lost and lands are not destroyed. The three C's he stated were communication, cooperation and coordination and as well as partnership between state, local and tribal governments. He stated, "natural disasters do not recognize political boundaries and neither should we."

Highway Landscaping Subcommittee Report: Member Wallace was unable to attend the meeting. Information will be provided at the next Committee meeting.

Legislative Subcommittee: Member Loya mentioned that he has nothing new. Cynthia Gomez pointed out that there was legislative information in the Committee packets.

Environmental Subcommittee: Member Loya informed the Committee that he has not had time to meet with the other committee members; therefore, he had no report. Jila Priebe mentioned she is still awaiting direction from the NAAC as to whether to continue or dissolve the Environmental Subcommittee. Chairman Myers asked Tina Biorn if she would give quarterly reports on environmental issues. Ms. Biorn accepted and said she would be glad to work with Committee members, and provide reports as needed.

Update on Nominations - 2006-2007 Term: Valarie Smith reminded the Committee that NAAC nominations are coming up. The deadline for the nomination form is due to the Native American Liaison Branch no later than 5pm, August 31, 2005. She also mentioned all forms submitted after the deadline would not be considered for this term year 2006-2007.

NEW BUSINESS

Report on Intertribal Transportation Association (ITA) Conference: Ms. Gomez reported that she had met with various Native American liaisons from other States during the ITA conference held in Washington State. The purpose was to share information and provide examples of transportation issues or projects within each respective State, as it pertains to Native American communities.

Summary Report: Long Range Transportation Plan Workshops: Ms. Priebe announced that the Long Range Transportation Plan workshops has been very successful. With the support of Kanu Patel, Bureau Indian Affairs (BIA) and Jo Sanford, consultant handling the technical part of the workshops. We have received letters that Tribes are interested and they hope that we can provide future workshops.

Member Loya mentioned that he wanted to make a "motion" to continue to have the Long Range Transportation Plan workshops because they are so beneficial to Tribal communities.

The motion was called and seconded by Benjamin Charley. Chairman Myers called for the vote. The motion was passed by a vote 12 Yes, 0 Against.

Benjamin Charley suggested that staff should meet with Dale Risling and Kanu Patel, at the BIA Regional Office, and ask the BIA to become more involved at NAAC meetings and workshops.

Wireless Telecommunication Presentation: Member Nenna introduced Travis Majors from City Net West Technology. Dave thought the presentation would be good for Tribal communities to know that there are alternative telecommunication systems that may help the traveling public. Mr. Majors mentioned that his business was to help tribes with their telecommunications to those who are in remote areas and do not have telephone service, or they are not able to get a regular cell phone signal. He indicated that towers are placed around the perimeter of the reservation that transfers data by a signal as far away as 100 feet around the reservation including the nearby highways.

Presentation: Alternate Engine Fuel: Member Nenna provided information on diesel engine technology and how this alternative engine fuel can be used in airplanes to provide fuel efficiency and better services.

Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance (TERO) Policy: Bessie Papailias introduced herself as the new Chief of the External Equal Opportunity Program. She also introduced Robert Padilla, as the new TERO Coordinator for the office of Civil Rights. Ms. Papailias mentioned that she was very excited to attend the NAAC meeting and looks forward to working with the Committee. She also mentioned that the main concern of her office is removing barriers and opening the lines of communication between Tribes and other agencies.

Announcements:

None

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 12:30pm.